

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5333

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USUN NEW YORK 774

US NATO 1339

CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, YO, AO

SUBJECT: US ATTACKED AS OPPONENT OF DETENTE AND NON-ALIGNMENT

REF : BELGRADE 299

1. SUMMARY : FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR FOR MAJOR BELGRADE NEWSPAPER IN RECENT SERIES OF ARTICLES HAS MADE UNUSUALLY ONE-SIDED ATTACK ON US FOREIGN POLICY, ARGUING THAT THE APPARENT CRISIS IN DETENTE IS THE RESULT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WEST IN GENERAL, TRYING TO USE DETENTE FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTENDING IDEAS REPORTED REFTEL IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES BORBA FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR VLADO TESLIC MAKES HARSH, ONE-SIDED ATTACK ON US POLICY. IN JAN 20 COLUMN HE GOES AFTER U.S. ON ANGOLA AND PORTUGAL. HE POSES QUESTION
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WHETHER DETENTE IS IN CRISIS AND NOTES MANY AREAS

OF CONTINUED CONFLICT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD--THE MIDDLE EAST, ANGOLA, DIFFICULTIES WITH A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. ALL THE WHILE, HE NOTES, WESTERN EUROPE IS MOBILIZED TO RESIST AN "ALLEGED IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL OFFENSIVE FROM MOSCOW".

3. TESLIC DWELLS ON ANGOLA, DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM AS "AN AMERICAN POLITICAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE USSR IN APPEARANCE, AND AGAINST THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED COURSE OF AFRICAN NATIONS IN SUBSTANCE." HE SAYS THAT ONE ELEMENT OF US POLICY IS THAT "THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES IN AFRICA CANNOT 'FALL INTO MARXISM', THAT IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE USSR". SOVIET MILITARY AID TO THE "LEGITIMATE" ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT RESISTING SOUTH AFRICAN RACISTS AND OTHER COLONIALISTS IN EXPLOITED AS "SOVIET EXPANSION". TESLIC CHIDES THE US FOR IGNORING THE FACT THAT THE ANGOLAN MARXISTS FOUGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE WHILE VARIOUS AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS PROVIDED ARMS TO THE PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS.

4. TESLIC WRITES THAT THIS BASIC ANTI-COMMUNIST POLICY IS NOT TO BE FOUND ONLY IN ANGOLA BUT IS APPLIED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES "WHICH SEEK SOCIALIST FORMS OF ORGANIZATION AND ADOPT A NON-ALIGNED POLICY". HE USES THE EXAMPLE OF PORTUGAL, WHERE HE SAYS THAT "ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF THE USSR" WAS USED AS AN "EXCUSE" BY THE WEST TO APPLY PRESSURE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PORTUGAL AND THEN TO PREVENT PORTUGAL FROM TURNING EVEN TO NEUTRALISM. HE ACCUSES THE WEST OF PRESENTING PORTUGAL AS A TEST OF OTHER NATIONS' DEDICATION TO DETENTE, BUT NOT OF ITS OWN.

5. REDEFINING DETENTE, TESLIC SAYS THAT IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IT MEANS NEITHER CO-EXISTENCE NOR A CONTINUATION OF THE COLD WAR, BUT "THE PROCESS OF CHANGING OLD RELATIONS AND CONFLICTS". NOT DETENTE BUT BLOC RELATIONS ARE IN CRISIS AS A RESULT OF "THE DEFENSE OF SOME EGOISTIC INTERESTS AND THE OLD ORDER".

6. SECOND ARTICLE IN SERIES APPEARED JANUARY 21. IT
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DISCUSSES FORMATION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN BLOCS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM, AND THE PERSISTENCE OF BLOC COMPETITION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AT THE EXPENSE OF NON-ALIGNED STATE. TESLIC DIRECTLY ATTACKS U.S. WHILE CRITICIZING SOVIETS ONLY BY IMPLICATION.

7. MOST OUTRAGEOUS PASSAGES CONCERN U.S. "DOMINATION" OF WESTERN EUROPE. TESLIC SAYS THAT AMERICAN TROOPS WERE

ORIGINALLY STATIONED IN EUROPE TO DEFEND AGAINST A DIRECT SOVIET INVASION. ALTHOUGH THE COLD WAR ENDED AND IT BECAME "OBVIOUS" THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH ATTACK, THE TROOPS HAVE REMAINED AS INSTRUMENTS OF AMERICAN DOMINATION". "WESTERN EUROPE FOUND ITSELF UNDER THE MILITARY CONTROL OF AMERICANS, WHICH FOR A LONG TIME HAS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH QUESTIONS OF SECURITY. WESTERN EUROPE FOUND ITSELF UNDER THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DOMINATION OF THE USA..." HE GLOSSES OVER THE SOVIET ROLE IN EASTERN EUROPE IN A PASSING REFERENCE: "ALTHOUGH IN ANOTHER HISTORICAL-SOCIAL FRAMEWORK, THE PRESENCE OF THE USSR IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS SIMILAR REPERCUSSIONS."

8. COMMENT: FIRST ARTICLE IS THE STRONGEST ANTI-US RHETORIC WE HAVE SEEN COMING FROM YUGOSLAVS IN A LONG TIME. SECOND CONTAINS SOME BALANCE, BUT NOT MUCH. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW LONG TESLIC SERIES WILL RUN AND WHETHER ANTI-US THEMES WILL BE ORCHESTRATED INTO GENERAL CAMPAIGN.

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